

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs; and Claims 1-24 are indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 recite features that are definite and clearly enabled by the originally filed specification.

In rejecting Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, the Office Action asserts that “the recitation that ‘a difference between a first parameter and a second parameter’ is compared to ‘a stored tolerance range’ is unclear insofar as the former refers to a single numerical value while the latter refers to a range (which by definition consists of a set of values between two bounding values).”

In response to this rejection, independent Claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended to clarify that the tolerance range includes an upper limit value and a lower limit value, and the difference between the first parameter and the second parameter is determined to be outside of the tolerance range if the difference between the first parameter and the second parameter is greater than the upper limit value or less than the lower limit value. Thus, the claims clearly specify that the difference between the first parameter and the second parameter is compared against each of the upper limit value and the lower limit value of the tolerance

¹ E.g., specification, Fig. 12A and paragraphs [0055-0058].

range to determine if the difference is within or outside of the tolerance range (e.g. the range of values within the upper limit value and the lower limit value). Claim 1, for example, is amended to recite:

...comparing a difference between the first parameter and the second parameter to a stored tolerance range, the tolerance range including an upper limit value and a lower limit value;

determining whether the difference between the first parameter and the second parameter is outside of the tolerance range by determining whether the difference between the first parameter and the second parameter is greater than the upper limit value or less than the lower limit value;

setting a second flag when the difference between the first parameter and the second parameter is outside of the tolerance range...

Independent Claims 7 and 13, while directed to alternative embodiments, are amended to recite similar features.

As described in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 12A and paragraphs [0055-0058] of the specification, a first parameter (reference parameter) representing a condition is received and stored. Then a second parameter is received, which represents the same condition of the first parameter, but reflects the status of that condition after at least one image forming operation has been performed at the image forming apparatus. The first and second parameters are compared, and when a difference exists, a first flag is set and the difference between the parameters is compared to a threshold range to determine if the difference is outside of the range. When the difference is outside of the threshold range a second flag is set. The display of the condition is then controlled based on whether the first and/or second flag is set for the condition.

Therefore, in view of the above noted clarifications to independent Claims 1, 7 and 13, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-24 are definite and recite features that are clearly supported by the originally filed specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of Claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, be withdrawn.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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